Numb. 12.

Heraclitus Ridens:

AT

A Dialogue between Jeſt and Earneſt, concerning the Times

Tueſday, April the 19th. 1681.

Earn. AND how did they *look* ſay you?

Jeſt. Why they have a particular Talent that way, there is a gift of *looking*; I never ſaw People *look* ſo, but in the Pictures in *Tavernier's* Travels, and at a Conventicle; they *look't*, let me ſee, they *look't* like ſomething that is as like nothing as ever you ſaw in your life.

Earn. And pray what is that?

Jeſt. Nay, it is ſo particular, I cannot tell you; but in the common way, as they ſay, they *look't* as a Dog does for his Tail when he has loſt it; and that I may illuſtrate that Simile, you know when a Dog has a deſign upon you, for by the way Dogs are not without their deſigns, they are cunning Curs; and in the antient Learning of the *Gyptians*, from whom our modern Gypſies derive their Pettigree, being a ſort of Canting cunning Beggers and Cheats; I ſay, to return to the metaphor of the Dog, from which this was a little digreſſion, purpoſely to give you a clear Notion of the thing; your Dog I ſay, when he has a mind to any thing, though at another time he will not know you, but ſnap and ſnarl, and grumble, and be ready to flie in your face, yet for his own ends he will wag his tail, which is his dumb way of *Petitioning*: Now you muſt know, if his tail be cut off, he muſt needs look very ſimply, being under the greateſt diſappointment in the world, to have loſt his *Petitioning End*: Diſappointment! why Diſappointment will make any one alive *look* ſimply, and like a Dog that has loſt his tail, I ſay——

Earn. Then certainly I ſhall look ſo too preſently, here's a harange, as if you had gone to School at the *Bull and Mouth*, or *New-ſtreet*. I vow I am under a very ſtrange Diſappointment; I expected an account of affairs from the Coffee-houſes, and you have miſtaken your ſign.

Jeſt. No Sir, 'tis you are miſtaken, I am ſure I ſaw the Turks Head look out of a Cupboard, and make as many faces as all the Coffee-houſe Signs in Town can ſhew; and more than all that, I heard him ſay ſomething, ſo I did.

Earn. What did he ſay prithe.

Jeſt. Nay, there I deſire to be excuſed; for to tell you the truth, he made ſuch a noiſe that I could not hear what he ſaid: and beſides, I was ſo taken up with the contemplation of the infinite variety of *Extempore* faces, that I could mind nothing elſe.

Earn. I thought you had been at a Meeting by your deſcription and diſcourſe.

Jeſt. Conventicle and Coffee-houſe, what's matter, there's no great difference, but that the Law allows one and not the other, 'twill be all one a hundred years hence, they are both full of Noiſe and Phanaticks, only the Turks Head within makes more ſcurvy faces than his that's hang'd without.

Earn. Why did you never know that making of *Faces* is as Eſſential to the one, as making of *News* and *Coffee* is to the other: I muſt tell you, if it were not for that art of *Face-making*, the Women would not be ſo taken with them as they are. Come I'le tell you a ſtory: In *Scotland*, from whence we borrowed this trade of *Looking*, the great Dons uſed to take Apprentices to this *Facifacture*; and theſe they called *Incipients*; one of theſe being exerciſing before his Maſter, and ready to ſet up for himſelf, the Conſcionable Maſter as the finiſhing ſtroaks, called upon his Diſciple every foot, as he was practiſing his part with this laſt inſtruction, *Gern Joney, Gern I ſay, man, Gern.* This was ſuch a Maſter-piece of the Trade, that without it he muſt have been content to be a Journey-man all his life, or if he had ſet up, would never have thriven for want of Cuſtomers.

Jeſt. I thought there was ſomething in it, as the Fellow ſaid when he drunk the Diſhclout. Jack-pudding would never have ſuch a croud about him, if it were not that he is ſo exquiſite in the art of *Gerning* and *Antick*. But to the work of the day.

Earn. Ay, come, what ſay Captain *Elephant's* Troopers, and the *Alderſgate* Volunteers, now they are disbanded? *Jeſt.* Why they *look* too.

Earn. How do they *look*.

Jeſt. Like St. *George* on foot-back.

Earn. They ſhould have *look't* before they leapt. I can tell them a ſtory of a certain Statute of *Northampton*, which *looks* very ſower upon them; and if they do not cry *Peccavi*, will make them *look* through cold Iron. *Jeſt.* As for example.

Earn. Why? for example, the Statute of *Northampton*, 1 E. 1. ſays, *That among other things it was accorded that in the next Parliament proviſion ſhould be made by the King with the common aſſent of the Prelates, Earls, and Barons, that in all Parliaments, Treaties, and other Aſſemblies which ſhould be made in the Realm of* England *for ever, that every man ſhall come without all force and armour well and peaceably to the Honour of the King, and the peace of the Realm.* And accordingly at the next Parliament at *Weſtminſter*, the Prelates, Earls, Barons, and the Commonalty of the Realm there Aſſembled, to take advice of this buſineſs, have ſaid, *That to the Kings Majeſty is belongeth, and his part is through his Royal Seigniory, ſtraitly to defend* [or forbid] *force of armor, and all other force againſt the Peace at all times when it ſhall pleaſe him, and to puniſh them which ſhall do contrary, according to the Laws and Uſages of the Realm.*

Jeſt. They have brought their Hogs to a fair Market then I perceive: and I pray what are thoſe *Laws and Uſages of the Realm*, I find a man had need to read the Statutes and Records, that ſo he may not be catch'd with a *why-not?*

Earn.

Earn. 2 *Ed.* III. *c.* 3. This Statute of *Northampton* is explained, and a punishment directed. *None to ride Armed contrary to the Statute of* Northampton, *great nor ſmall, of what condition ſoever he be, except the Kings Servants, and his Miniſters in executing his Precepts, upon pain to forfeit their Armor to the King, and their bodies to Priſon at the Kings pleaſure*; and 20 Ric. 2. 1. the ſame is repeated with the addition to the former Penalties of *making Fine and Ranſom to the King*.

Jeſt. Ay but that was in the days of Queen *Dick*; I have heard much of that Queen *Dick*; but we are grown wiſer than to be affraid of three or four muſty Statutes made 400 years ago.

Earn. But, ſweet Sir, let me adviſe you to keep out of the reach of an Old Statute, the Cords of the Law grow ſtrong with Age, and will tie a man neck and heels as well as the neweſt.

Jeſt. Well! but ſtill we have a help at maw, a trick to come off with, at a dead lift. Oh Sir! it lies in the breaſt of the Jury to find the Bill; and do you think they will have ſo little Conſcience to find men Guilty for obeying Conſcience in riding Armed, rather than obey the Laws which ſay they ſhall not?

Earn. Say you ſo? Well Sir then the Law will ſhew their Conſcience a trick for their trick, and the ſtone will be in their foot ſtill: If they be for *Conſcientious tricks*, I warrant you the Law will meet with them either at hedge or ſtile: they ſay indeed that moſt of the Juries about Town are Panels of Diſſenting Proteſtants: but all this cunning ſignifies juſt nothing. For firſt though this be againſt Law, and the Sheriffs, Coroners and other Miniſters, who are to take care of the Returns of Juries ought to Impannel ſuch as are People not ſuſpected, and if they do the contrary, are to anſwer it before the Juſtices that take the Inqueſt, 34. *Ed.* 4. *c.* 4. Yet ſecondly, care is taken even in this particular by the wiſdom of the Law; for by 3. *H.* 8. *c.* 12. the Juſtices who are to enquire for the King, have a power granted to reform ſuch Juries by putting to, and taking out the names of the Perſons which be ſo Impannelled according to the diſcretion of the ſaid Juſtice, before whom ſuch Pannels ſhall be returned, and the ſame Pannel ſo reformed by the ſaid Juſtices ſhall be good and lawful; And pray what will become of all their tricks and their *cunning Conſciences* then?

Jeſt. They muſt e'en go to making faces and gerning, for any thing I know, for I aſſure you they will be under a very great diſappointment; they thought they had had the Law all in their own hands, but I find the caſe is alter'd, quoth *Plowden*.

Earn. I hope it will be altered in a little time, and for the better too; and that the Nation will be awake to ſee the danger they are in from *Diſſenting Proteſtants* and *Papiſts*; and ſince the Law, which ought to be a Rule to all honeſt men, and which is our ſecurity and protection under Providence, eſteems them dangerous Enemies to the Government, that care will be taken to put the Laws effectually in execution againſt both the one and the other.

Jeſt. But they ſay they will riſe, and I aſſure you abundance of People are affraid of it, they ſpeak Bugges words.

Earn. Then they will fall; for that will thoroughly convince all People, that they make Religion a Cloak, and tho many have a good opinion of them now, that would expoſe them to be Cheats and Villains, and all the honeſt People of their own Party would fall off from them when they ſhall ſee them ſay one thing, and do another, call themſelves *Loyal*, *Dutiful*, and *Obedient Subjects*, and yet Rebel againſt their Sovereign: But come let us leave them to their Deſtiny or Predeſtination, and go to our Old trade. *Jeſt.* With all my heart.

Earn. 1. Whether ſome Perſons do not endeavour to perſuade the Nation that the Sovereiguty lodges in the Houſe of Commons, while they do ſo briskly threaten any perſon that dare open his mouth againſt a Vote, while at the ſame time the King and his Laws are traduced, contemned, deſpiſed, and confidently ſpoken againſt by every pert Blew-apron States-man?

2. Whether, they who are our *Fellow-Subjects*, and our *Servants*, and by Law are appointed *Wages*, ought to take it upon them, not only as if they were ours, but our Great Maſter's maſters.

3. Whether, if Diſſenters will importune the King by Petitions for a *New Parliament*, they will do their weak endeavour to chuſe him a *New Houſe of Commons*?

4. Whether Diſſenting Proteſtants are more deſirous of a Parliament that will proſecute the horrid Popiſh Plot, or Repeal the 35 of *Eliz.* and other Penal Laws againſt Diſſenters, and pull down the Church of *England*, by reducing the Biſhops, according to the Speech of a Worthy Knight, Recorded by *Fra. Smiths*, to the primitive condition of *Timothy* and *Titus*, that is, to be *poor* and *proſecuted*, and next doorto *root* and *branch*.

5. Whether, to urge a Vote of the Houſe of Commons as obligatory upon the Subject, contrary to any unrepealed Law, be not aſſuming a Legiſlative Power in one of the Houſes of Parliament? And whether if a Commiſſion of *Oyer* and *Terminer* ſhould notwithſtanding the late Vote be iſſued out, ſome people will not be ſo wiſe to diſobey it, rather than by pleading any obligation from it, to run the hazzard of Premunire, awarded 13 *Car.* 2. 1. againſt all who ſhall affirm there is a legiſlative Power in either, or both Houſes of Parliament, without the Kings aſſent?

6. Whether if it be falſe that *William Cooper* as *Eliz. Harris* calls him, *Prot. Dom. Int. Num.* 111. made ſuch a Speech as is there mentioned, it be true that he made a better to the two Ladies at the *Half-moon* Tavern?

7. Whether endeavouring to ſubvert the Government be not as much Treaſon in *Smith* the *Anabaptiſt*, as in *Colman* the *Papiſt*? And

Whether now *Fr. Smith* is in *Newgate* it is more proper to ſay the *Elephant* has his own *Caſtle* on his back, or that he has crept into it?

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